

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 CU-04 EB-11 OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01

/141 W

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R 120630Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0649

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: BANGKOK THAILAND SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1300 JANUARY 12

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. BANGKOK 629 B. USIS BANGKOK 1125Z

1. VOCATIONAL STUDENTS FROM RIVAL SCHOOLS GOT INTO AN UNFORTUNATE FIGHT NEAR THE CHANA SONGKRAM POLICE STATION THE EVENING OF JANUARY 11. THE POLICE, AFTER GIVING REFUGE IN THE STATION TO THOSE WHO LOSING THE BATTLE, BECAME AN ADDITIONAL TARGET OF THE STUDENT VICTORS AND LOST A PICKUP TRUCK TO FIRE IN THE PROCESS. ONE STUDENT WAS KILLED AND AT LEAST SEVEN INJURED, BUT SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL THE DEATH OCCURRED FROM A PLASTIC BOMB THE STUDENTS HAD MADE, AND THE POLICE HAD NO
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ROLE IN INFLECTING THE INJURIES EITHER.

2. THE GOVERNMENT SUFFERED TWO PSYCHOLOGICAL REVERSES JANUARY 11. AT THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE ON NEW TAX DECREES, THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FINALLY APPROVED THREE OF THEM. THE ASSEMBLY, HOWEVER, REJECTED AN EMERGENCY DECREE PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION FEES. BOTH THE EARLIER DEBATE AND THE REJECTION OF THE ONE MEASURE COULD BE CONSIDERED A REBUKE TO FINANCE MINISTER BOONMA WONGSAWAN. ON THE SECOND ISSUE, THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND THE PLASTIC BOMBS AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (REF A) REPORTEDLY LED TO AN RTG COMPROMISE ON GRANTING ACADEMIC STATUS AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL TO A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF VOCATIONAL STUDENTS.

3. CHIANG MAI WAS QUIET THE MORNING OF JANUARY 12 AS WA SONGKHLA. IN UDORN, HOWEVER, STUDENTS AT THE TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE WERE REPORTEDLY PLANNING A NOON MARCH AGAINST THE NEARBY AIRBASE, OR ELSE AGAINST 333 HEADQUARTERS SLIGHTLY FURTHER SOUTH ALONG THE HIGHWAY. THE CONSULATE IN UDORN WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, IF ANY. NOTHING HAD OCCURRED AS OF 1300.

4. THE THAI LANGUAGE PRESS HAS NOW TAKEN OVER FROM ITS ENGLISH LANGUAGE COLLEAGUES IN FOCUSING INVECTIVE ON THE CIA. THAI PAPERS CARRIED ELEVEN EDITORIALS AND COLUMNS ON THIS ISSUE JANUARY 9 THROUGH 11 (REF B).

5. UNLESS SOMETHING ERUPTS, WE PLAN NO FURTHER SITUATION REPORTS UNTIL JANUARY 14. BANGKOK GIVES PROMISE OF A TRANQUIL WEEKEND.
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